

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2016*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2016 theme, Hispanic Americans: Embracing, Enriching, and Enabling America. From September 15, 2016, through October 15, 2016, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the cultures and traditions and honor the many outstanding contributions of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins each year on September 15, recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the tremendous impact Hispanic Americans have had within their communities and throughout our nation. The tireless efforts of generations of Hispanic Americans have resulted in a better America.

America's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of our society.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to once again join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout America's history, present, and future, the Hispanic community has played and will continue to play a major role in enriching the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for their outstanding contributions they are worthy of our respect and gratitude.

### IN RECOGNITION OF GAM GRAPHICS AND MARKETING'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate GAM Graphics and Marketing in Sterling, Virginia who celebrated their 40th anniversary this July. Opened by Charles Grant in 1976, GAM Graphics and Marketing provides quality printing and commercial serv-

ices to countless citizens throughout our great Commonwealth.

GAM was founded in the 1970s with the mission of teaching marketable job skills to students. Originally the printing was done by the students, mainly serving churches and mission groups; however commercial requests started in 1976. Within five years GAM was producing print products ranging from business cards to full-bound books and bulk mailings. GAM is a company run with compassion and a focus on providing excellent quality and service to their clients. In 1985, Nathaniel Grant took the reins at GAM and with his leadership the company continued to grow. Nathaniel and his sister Faith purchased the company from their parents in 1996. Under the guidance of Nathaniel and Faith, GAM modernized and the company continued to grow without any adverse effect on their excellent quality and service.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in sending our most sincere appreciation to a company that has given so much to their neighbors. The Grant Family and the staff of GAM Graphics and Marketing serve as an example to all. On behalf of Virginia's 10th Congressional District I wish them continued success in the future.

### IN RECOGNITION OF 90 YEARS OF TOLEDO BLADE OWNERSHIP BY THE BLOCK FAMILY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, ninety years ago, Paul Block, Sr. took charge of the Toledo Blade and the Block family has led the esteemed daily ever since. The Blade has been an institution of Northwest Ohio since 1835, but the steady guiding hand of the Blocks has led the newspaper to new heights over the past nine decades.

The Toledo Blade has resided at the same location since shortly after Block Sr. purchased the downtown Toledo site in 1927 for \$4.5 million. The day the building opened, Calvin Coolidge pressed a gold key from Washington to start the new presses. Throughout the ups and downs in the city and region, the Blade has been there to report the news and keep its readers informed.

The success of the Blade would not be possible without the support and vision of the Block family. They have led the paper through revolutionary advancements in how the news is reported and distributed. That includes using technology like the Internet and social media to spread the stories of the day.

The current leadership of John Robinson Block as Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the Blade and Allan Block as Chairman of Block Communications has served the paper well into the 21st century as the daily still boasts a circulation of 120,000 readers. Along with

print editions, readership is at an all-time high with countless others consuming the news through the website, apps, and on other platforms.

Mr. Speaker, ninety years of media leadership from one family is very admirable, and it should be celebrated. I'd like to recognize the Block family for their leadership of a great Ohio institution, the Toledo Blade.

### IN RECOGNITION OF BLUEMONT CONCERT SERIES' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 19, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bluemont Concert Series as it proudly celebrates 40 years of providing high-quality concerts and cultural events in localities throughout northwestern and central Virginia. Originally, the organization received its name from its hometown of Bluemont in Loudoun County, Virginia. Since 1976, Bluemont has presented over 9,300 events fostering a sense of community in the Commonwealth through its presentations of art and culture. This extraordinary concert series has entertained audiences of over three million people including schools, health care facilities, assisted living centers, and nursing homes. This is an important milestone for this wonderful organization.

Cultivating a cultural and artistic presence in Virginia's 10th Congressional District is important to the overall health of our community. It is organizations such as the Bluemont Concert Series that allow us to enjoy a broad range of diverse experiences that would be otherwise inaccessible. The mission of Bluemont, providing family-oriented and affordable events, has given residents in Virginia the opportunity to enjoy music, song, poetry, and storytelling. The concert series has presented a wide range of musical genres including bluegrass, Hawaiian swing, folk, jazz, rock and roll, classical flute and Caribbean steel bands; which has helped to strengthen the cultural spirit within our community.

Over the years, Bluemont has reached lives, not only through its concert series, but also through its school programs and its Artists-in-Education initiative. Bluemont's Outreach Program offers quality entertainment at no charge to appreciative audiences in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Its outstanding work has earned Bluemont many accolades and awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Alliance for Arts Education. The Bluemont Concert Series has provided a valuable service to community and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Bluemont Concert Series on 40 years of serving the great Commonwealth of Virginia. I wish Bluemont all the best in its future endeavors.

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